

Please substitute the following amended claims 17, 18, 60, 64-68, 70, and 74 for pending claims 17, 18, 60, 64-68, 70, and 74:

17. (Twice Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 34, allelic variants of the polypeptide, and fragments of the polypeptide that retain the ability to inhibit cellular apoptosis. *BIR domain*

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18. (Twice Amended) A polypeptide comprising the sequence EGWEPDDDDPIEEHKKHSSGC (SEQ ID NO: 4), and its conservatively-substituted homologs.

D2
60. (Amended) An isolated mammalian polypeptide of the IAP family, wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight of 16.5 KDa as determined by SDS PAGE and inhibits apoptosis.

64. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

D3
65. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

66. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

new matter
67. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 20 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

new matter
68. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 40 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

D4 70. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 70 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

D5 74. (Amended) A mutant polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 34 in that one or more amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 34 is substituted with another amino acid, wherein the one or more residues are selected from the group consisting of Arg¹⁸, Phe²², Trp²⁵, Pro²⁶, Pro³⁵, Ala³⁹, Ala⁴¹, Gly⁴², Cys⁴⁶, Asp⁵³, Cys⁵⁷, Cys⁶⁰, Leu⁶⁴, Trp⁶⁷, Pro⁶⁹, Asp⁷¹, Asp⁷², Pro⁷³, His⁷⁷, and Cys⁸⁴.

Please add the following new claims:

77. (New) A composition comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 18, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 or 71.

78. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 18, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, or 71 and a carrier.

79. (New) An immunogenic composition comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 18, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 or 71.

D6 80. (New) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule, wherein the polypeptide inhibits cellular apoptosis and wherein the nucleic acid molecule ^{completely} hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid molecule consisting of nucleotides 2811-2921, 3174-3283, 5158-5275 and 11955-12041 of SEQ ID NO: 35, which encodes SEQ ID NO: 34, under conditions selected from the group consisting of: (1) washing with 0.015 M NaCl, 0.0015 M sodium titrate, 0.1% NaDodSO₄ at 50°C; (2) hybridization in 50% (vol/vol) formamide with 0.1% bovine serum albumin, 0.1% Ficoll, 0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer at pH 6.5 with 750 mM NaCl, 75 mM sodium citrate at 42°C; and (3) hybridization in 50% formamide, 5X SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5X Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 g/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

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